

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, April 3. 1708.

IN my last I gave you a Letter, which if you think fit, will inform you much of the State of *Scotland*— And 'tis a full Demonstration of what I argued, was fit to be done to prevent the *French* making any second Attempts upon that Country.

There is no Room to doubt, but the Nakedness of the Country was one of the principal Excitements to the Enemy to make this Attempt; an Adventure so scandalous in its Nature, that sure the World abroad must have Reason to think, they have been mistaken in their Notions of *England*— What will be to be answer'd, when the formidable Figure, that *England* has made in the World, comes to be talk'd of? — And at the same Time it shall be nam'd, that *France* attempted us with such a ridiculous

Force, what a Hurry and a Fright he put us in, and how we were fain to have Troops brought from *Flanders*, that should have serv'd in the Field there; our Regiments design'd for *Lisbon* be stopp'd, our Squadrons design'd to relieve the *Mediterranean* Part, sent to the *North*, and in short, that we are not in a Condition to resist 7000 Men.

The Hint in the Letter, I gave you in the last Paper, of 5000 Men traversing all *Scotland*, must give us to understand, that our *Militia* in that Country is in a miserable, unsettled Posture, and that upon any Alarm the whole People are an irregular Mob, under no Possibility of making an Appearance for mutual Defence.

To remedy this Mischief, 'tis necessary certainly to consider the Danger, such a defenceless

defenceless Posture of Affairs exposes us to.—And to find out Methods to put *Scotland* in a Posture not to be insulted; or found in the like Condition of Nakedness again.—And this seems to me to be very feasible, under one of these three Heads.

1. By having a reasonable Strength at hand for preventing Surprise.
2. By having the Country put into a Posture of Defence, and Arms put into the Hands of the People.
3. By having Arms taken out of the Hands of the Enemies of the Government.
4. By having a Stationary Squadron of the Navy fixed in the Firth of *Edinburgh*.
5. By having the Ports strengthened with necessary Fortifications.

I'll take up some of your Time to discourse of all these Heads in their Course; but I am now upon Generals only, and shall but give you Hints of Matters.

Two Things certainly animated the *French* to this Expedition against *Scotland*, besides the naked Condition of the Country.

1. The Numbers of disaffected People there upon the several Articles of the Reformation, Revolution and Union.
2. The formidable Posture of the *Highlanders*, on whose Lords and Superiors they have Dependence.

Both these Things as they encouraged *France* to such an Attempt as this, so they argue strongly, that it cannot be reasonable to leave *Scotland* in so naked a Condition, as *England* may be ventur'd in; here the People are numerous, the Spirits of the Generality establish'd, and a Descent, tho' it might do much Spoil, would meet with but few Abettors.

Our Disaster in *Scotland* lies on two Accounts.

Those we may trust, we will not; and Those we wish we could trust, we cannot.

Were the *Highlanders* of *Scotland* universally affected to, and zealous for the Government, the King of *France* would as soon attempt the City of *London*, as the

Firth, or any other Part of *Scotland*; you needed no other Army, no other *Militia*, they are able at the suddenest Notice, and with the least Disciplining, to form the best Body of raw Men in the World; they are all provided with Arms, and understand them; they are entirely under Subordination to their Superiors, and may be perhaps the most formidable little Body of Men in their rude Circumstances in these Parts of the World. But on the other Hand, those People are not, generally speaking, your Friends—That is, indeed their Lairds and Superiors espouse a wrong Interest, and the poor People are under that entire Bondage to the Commands of their Lairds, that if they command them out, the Men never enquire against whom; but their Business is to go as they are led, and if King *Belzebub* was to come, they would fight for him, if the Laird commanded them.

I doubt not, the Parliament of *Britain* will some time or other consider, whether these Sorts of People ought to go in that arm'd and formidable Posture; they are now seen in, or not; and whether it is safe to *Scotland*, as well as to *England*, to let such a Strength so little at Command remain in a Place, where our Enemies may so easily gain Footing, and we with so much Difficulty remove them.

As to the arming the other Party, I know, the Alarm will be great here, and yet I must tell you, this must be done, let your Jealousies be what they will.

Arm *Presbyterians*? Nay, then we shall be in a fine Condition indeed—Mr. *Rebeassat*, what think you, is it not a sad Tale to tell at this Time of Day, to put Arms into the Hands of 40000 *Presbyterians*—Well, if you won't do this, what will you do? Will you have a standing Army to keep you safe, numerous Garrisons, strong Fortifications, and the like? Something must be done, or else 'tis a plain Case, you will be always insulted by your Enemies.

It is a hard Case, Gentlemen, that you will not trust these *Presbyterians* with the Power of defending themselves, and yet you will trust the barbarous, uncultivated Mountaineers with Fire-Arms, and all Sorts.

Sorts of Weapons, on every Occasion to cut their Throats.

O but these *Presbyterians* declare against you, or in common Stile are against the Union.

I pray, Gentlemen, will you distinguish between Dissatisfaction and Disaffection; the *Presbyterians*, [indeed, that is many of them, are dissatisfy'd; but the *Highland Jacobites* and *Episcopalians*, are disaffected; these decline Uniting with you, but those abhor your very Constitution; the one do not like us, but the other hate us.

But turn the Tables again; these have the same Interest with us, those no Interest,

but what contravenes and interferes with ours; these are built on the same Foundation with us; viz. the Revolution, those agree neither in Foundation nor Superstructure—— In short, these have given no Ground to suspect them, those no Ground to trust them; it is barbarous to be jealous of these, it would be senseless not to suspect the other—— I must own, there is something very unkind in our jealousies of these People, very unjust, and very ill suited with Discretion. But of this I shall say more in my next.

MISCELLANEA.

AND now we must make you merry a while, Gentlemen; for who can but be pleas'd with the Banter put upon Tyranny by the known Advocate of Tyrants, the *Rebearsal*, in his Observation upon my Instance of *Reboboam*—— Whom injuriously, it seems, I call a Tyrant; Mr. *Rebearsal*, would have been content if I had call'd him Fool, tho' that had been unmannerly too—— But he cannot be a Tyrant by any Means.

Well, to make this out—— *Reboboam* was too tender-hearted a Prince! Certainly, Mr. *Rebearsal* wanted to make the World laugh a little; first with his Tale of *GOD's* refusing to let Israel go till they had Pharaoh's Consent, and now with Honest *Reboboam* and his being no Tyrant, but a tender-hearted Prince, and a Fool; from whence we may note,

1. That according to Mr. *Rebearsal*, a tender-hearted Prince is a Fool.
2. Immediately proceeding to call K. *Chal. I.* a tender hearted Prince, by his own Argument he would call him Fool too; I have known him draw many a wider Consequence.

But since I have call'd King *Reboboam* a Tyrant, I must see if I can make it out, or else like an honest Man I am bound to ac-

knowledge it; for this let me ask him one previous Question, the Answer to which will explain it; the Question is this, *What did the People complain of?*——

I answer, they complain'd of Oppression, explain'd in two Articles, Exorbitant Exactions and Illegal Punishments.

Now if these do not make a Tyrant, we must indeed be at a Loss to find a Tyrant in King *Solomon*—— But we may still find One in *Reboboam*, or else the King of *France* is no Tyrant, who, we know, has divested his Subjects of all their ancient Rights, and resolved them into his absolute Will.

But the Story of *Reboboam* will of Necessity lead me to ask Mr. *Rebearsal* a few Questions more about his tender-hearted King, whom he will not have be a Tyrant.

1. Whether a haughty Answer to a humble and just Petition of Subjects, refusing to redress their Grievances, and threatening them, *that his little Finger should be heavier than his Fathers Loyns*, or in the Language of a more modern Tyrant, to the humble Application of the Gentlemen of *Maudlin College*, and some others, *Viz. I will be obey'd, or I shall make you feel the Weights of my Hand*; whether this does not denote a Tyrant?

2. Whether